

~~SECRET~~/NOFORN

PROJECT SUN STREAK

WARNING NOTICE: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PROJECT NUMBER: 8808	SESSION NUMBER: 26
DATE OF SESSION: 16 AUG 88	DATE OF REPORT: 16 AUG 88
START: 1000	END: 1130
METHODOLOGY: WRV	VIEWER IDENTIFIER: 079

1. (S/NF/SK) MISSION: Determine if anyone aside of the captors was aware of plans and intentions to abduct, kidnap USMC LTC William (Rich) Higgins on 17 February 1988.
2. (S/NF/SK) VIEWER TASKING: Viewer tasked with Essential Elements of Information (EEI) reflected in mission tasking, Para 1.
3. (S/NF/SK) COMMENTS: No Inclemencies noted. A Summary of Information is attached.
4. (S/NF/SK): EVALUATION:

HANDLE VIA SKEET CHANNELS ONLY

~~SECRET~~/NOFORN

CLASSIFIED BY: DIA (DT)
DECLASSIFY: OADR

~~SECRET~~

WORKING PAPER

26
8808
079
880812

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

The existence of a conspiracy to have USMC LTC Higgins abducted was perceived as having been the work of three so-called individuals politically affiliated with the moderate, neutral (Christian?) faction of the Lebanese government at the time. The plan for the abduction was conceived based on Higgins' often expressed political views on Lebanon that were non-supportive of the Lebanese government then in power and strongly advocating the establishment of a heavily Syrian-influenced form of government for Lebanon. Reportedly, Higgins expressed this opinion on at meetings on several occasions while serving in his capacity as a representative of the United Nations (UN). The fact that LTC Higgins should not have been selected for assignment to Lebanon as a member of the UN is now well-known; and, the result of stupidity, carelessness, and circumvention of the system. An individual by the name of Little or Littleton (phonetic) with UN connections, was responsible for recommending and facilitating Higgins' assignment to the UN. There were US/Israeli (?) HUMINT intelligence reports warning of the pending abduction of Higgins. (No further details). The phonetic name of "Grabelli" surfaced as one of three possible Lebanese nationals who conspired to indirectly tip-off members of the Hezbollah group in Lebanon. Money, possibly blackmail, and the establishment of political

bargaining positions vis-a-vis the US motivated and precipitated the tip-off to the Hezbollah group; above all, the primary purpose of effecting the abduction was to silence Higgins and his views ^{on} a needed Syrian-type takeover of Lebanon. The Hezbollah (in Lebanon) were not that anxious to abduct Higgins and did so quite reluctantly; as a group, morale was at a low ebb by the apparent transition in power taking place in Iran where Khomeini's absence from the political scene was noticeable. (Names of the suspects [conspirators] should be furnished this office if further data is desired). The release of LTC Higgins will take place in a matter of days (recently reported as on or about 20 August 1988). LTC Higgins will not be debriefed until his return to the US. UN procedures are to be followed and adhered to in the case of LTC Higgins.

The "CI Team" will most likely be going overseas to debrief the hostages; they will probably go to Lebanon and from there to West Germany. Many of the hostages will not remember all of the details surrounding their captivity; hopefully, they will be allowed to channel and submit data beyond the limits of initial debriefings as they recapture their ability to recall is enhanced by rest and recuperation.

There is an ongoing effort to "round up" (all of the) hostages and to transport them to Tehran, Iran "via chopper." Every effort is being made to make them appear as physically fit as possible in light of their impending release from captivity.